

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** Chairman John Esp, on March 23, 2009 at 3:00 P.M.,  
in Room 405 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. John Esp, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ron Erickson (D)  
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)  
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Leanne Heisel, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 449; HB 630, 3/17/2009

Executive Action: HB 466 ~ DO CONCUR  
HB 563 ~ DISCUSSION

**HEARING ON HB 449**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:14 Rep. Bill McChesney (D), HD 40, opened the hearing on  
HB 449, Revise state and local government finance laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:45 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources &  
Conservation (DNRC)

00:10:41 L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana  
Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:13:26 Dan Semmens, Dorsey & Whitney, Missoula

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:17:15 Sen. Barkus

00:17:55 Anna Miller, DNRC

00:19:09 Sen. Barkus

00:19:16 Dan Semmens, Dorsey & Whitney

00:21:16 Senators Jackson and Erickson arrived at the hearing.

00:21:24 Dan Semmens

00:21:53 Sen. Gallus

00:23:06 L. Harold Blattie, MACo

00:24:21 Sen. Gallus

00:24:35 Rep. McChesney

00:25:18 Chairman Esp

00:26:17 Anna Miller

00:30:55 Sen. Gillan

00:32:02 L. Harold Blattie

00:35:19 Chairman Esp

00:35:46 Anna Miller

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:37:25 Rep. McChesney

**HEARING ON HB 630**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:37:55 Rep. Diane Sands (D), HD 95, opened the hearing on  
HB 630, Revise laws relating to improvement district  
revolving funds.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:40:27 Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director, City of Missoula  
[EXHIBIT](#)(los64a01)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:46:18 Sen. Tutvedt  
00:46:35 Brentt Ramharter, Missoula  
00:47:37 Sen. Erickson  
00:47:49 Brentt Ramharter  
00:48:35 Sen. Essmann  
00:48:50 Brentt Ramharter  
00:53:47 Sen. Gillan  
00:54:51 Dan Semmens, Dorsey & Whitney, Missoula  
01:02:35 Sen. Gallus  
01:02:50 L. Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties  
(MACo)  
01:03:14 Sen. Erickson  
01:03:55 Brentt Ramharter  
01:06:44 Chairman Esp  
01:07:07 Brentt Ramharter  
01:08:13 Senator Laslovich arrived at the hearing.  
01:08:54 Brentt Ramharter  
01:11:08 Sen. Barkus  
01:12:11 Brentt Ramharter  
01:15:14 Chairman Esp  
01:15:40 L. Harold Blattie, MACo  
01:16:53 Leanne Heisel, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
01:17:20 Sen. Erickson  
01:18:08 Brentt Ramharter  
01:18:35 Sen. Essmann  
01:19:13 Brentt Ramharter

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:20:21 Rep. Sands

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 466**

01:22:21 **Motion:** Sen. Gallus moved that **HB 466 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

01:22:41 Chairman Esp

01:23:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen.  
Tutvedt will carry HB 466.

**Committee Discussion on HB 563:**

01:25:22 Chairman Esp

**EXHIBIT**(los64a02)

**EXHIBIT**(los64a03)

01:26:39 L. Harold Blattie, MACo

01:27:54 Sen. Tutvedt

01:28:39 Sen. Gillan

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

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Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([los64aad.pdf](#))**